

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 12168

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN 12168 VICE 02168

H PASS SENATOR JOSEPH R. BIDEN, UNITED STATES SENATE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CARR, MX
SUBJECT: PROFILE OF AMERICAN PRISONER POPULATION IN MEXICO

1. SUMMARY. THE EMBASSY HAS DEVELOPED A PROFILE OF AMERICAN PRISONER POPULATION IN MEXICO BASED ON RANDOM SAMPLE OF 40 PERCENT OF JUNE 1, 1977 LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICO. PROFILE SHOWS 60 PERCENT OF PRISON POPULATION UNDER 30 ON DATE OF ARREST, 91 PERCENT MALE, 84 PERCENT CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS. SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF NARCOTICS OFFENSES INVOLVED MARIJUANA OR COCAINE IN QUANTITIES LARGER THAN NORMAL FOR PERSONAL USE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS DEVELOPED A STATISTICAL PROFILE OF THE AMERICAN PRISONER POPULATION IN MEXICO WHICH MAY BE OF USE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND CONSTITUENT POSTS IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, NEWS MEDIA, AND OTHER SOURCES. THE PROFILE WAS DRAWN FROM A SURVEY OF 40 PERCENT OF THE PRISONER CASES IN MEXICO RANDOMLY SELECTED UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM THE PRISONER LIST OF JUNE 1, 1977. WE PROPOSE TO EXPAND SURVEY TO COVER ALL PRISONERS ON THE LIST WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE SURVEY WAS INTENDED TO SHOW AGE, SEX, TYPE OF OFFENSE, AND TYPE AND AMOUNT OF DRUGS IN NARCOTICS OFFENSES. OF THE 230 CASES SELECTED FOR THE SURVEY, INFORMATION WAS READILY AVAILABLE FOR AGE IN 218 CASES AND ON QUANTITY OF DRUGS FOR 168 OF THE DRUG CASES. THE SURVEY WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE USEFUL HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON PREVIOUS ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE IN CONSULAR FILES, NOR IS IT POSSIBLE TO RETRIEVE RELIABLE INFORMATION

FROM OTHER SOURCES (DEA, NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER)
ON BASIS OF A NAME CHECK ALONE, WITHOUT FINGERPRINTS.

3. NOTE: STATISTICS ON QUANTITY OF DRUGS MUST BE INTER-
PRETED WITH CARE BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

(1) IN MANY CASES THE QUANTITY OF DRUGS SHOWN IN OUR
RECORDS IS TAKEN FROM PRISONER'S STATEMENT TO CONSULAR
OFFICER, NOT ALWAYS VERIFIED FROM OFFICIAL RECORDS.

(2) QUANTITY OF DRUGS SHOWN IN ORIGINAL CHARGES IN MANY
CASES IS GROSS WEIGHT, INCLUDING WEIGHT OF CONTAINER; THIS
AMOUNT MAY BE CORRECTED LATER BY THE COURT BUT NOT
REFLECTED IN CONSULAR RECORDS.

(3) THE AMOUNT OF DRUG WITH WHICH THE PRISONER WAS ARRESTED
MAY BE A POOR INDICATION OF THE AMOUNT WHICH HE WAS
INVOLVED IN TRANSPORTING. IN SOME CASES THE AMOUNT OF
DRUG ACTUALLY SEIZED REPRESENTS ONLY THE RESIDUE OF LEAVES,
SEEDS, ETC., FOUND IN AN AIRCRAFT OR STORAGE AREA USED TO
SHIP OR STORE LARGE QUANTITIES.

(4) ACCORDING TO DEA HERE, AVERAGE MARIJUANA CIGARETTE
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CONTAINS APPROXIMATELY ONE GRAM OF MARIJUANA. THUS 76.4
PERCENT OF MARIJUANA CASES INVOLVED SUFFICIENT MARIJUANA
TO PRODUCE MORE THAN 1,000 "JOINTS"; 57.3 PERCENT INVOLVED
ENOUGH FOR 20,000 "JOINTS". NEARLY ALL OF THE COCAINE
CASES INVOLVED HIGH-PURITY COCAINE WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE
REDUCED TO APPROXIMATELY SEVEN PERCENT PURITY BEFORE USE.
ASSUMING A TEN-TO-ONE REDUCTION, 83.4 PERCENT OF THE
COCAINE CASES IN THE SURVEY INVOLVED COCAINE SUFFICIENT
FOR 1,000 DOSES OR MORE, AND 47.9 PERCENT INVOLVED
ENOUGH FOR MORE THAN 10,000 NORMAL STRENGTH DOSES.

4. PRISONER PROFILE: GENERAL PROFILE ESTABLISHED BY SURVEY
IS THAT OF YOUNG PERSON (79 PERCENT BELOW AGE 35 AND 61
PERCENT BELOW AGE 30 ON DAY OF ARREST), MALE (91 PERCENT),
INVOLVING AMOUNTS OF MARIJUANA OR COCAINE LARGER THAN
WOULD BE NORMAL FOR PERSONAL USE. (OF MARIJUANA CASES,
76 PERCENT INVOLVED MORE THAN ONE KILO AND 57 PERCENT
INVOLVED MORE THAN 20 KILOS; OF COCAINE CASES, 83 PERCENT
INVOLVED MORE THAN 100 GRAMS AND 48 PERCENT INVOLVED MORE
THAN ONE KILO.) ONLY TEN OF THE DRUG CASES IN THE SURVEY
INVOLVED HEROIN.

(A) AGE ON DAY OF ARREST: OF CASES IN SURVEY, PERSONS
UNDER 20 ACCOUNTED FOR 4.6 PERCENT OF CASES, AGES 20-24
ACCOUNTED FOR 23.1 PERCENT, AGES 25-29 ACCOUNTED FOR 33.5
PERCENT, 30-34 ACCOUNTED FOR 18.8 PERCENT AND THOSE
OVER 35 ACCOUNTED FOR 19.7 PERCENT. TWO-THIRDS OF THE
LARGE DRUG CASES (OVER 20 KILOS OF MARIJUANA OR OVER ONE

KILO OF COCAINE) INVOLVED PERSONS UNDER 30. SURVEY
REVEALED NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN AGE PATTERN BETWEEN
CASES INVOLVING DIFFERENT TYPES OF DRUGS.

(B) QUANTITIES AND TYPES OF DRUGS: MARIJUANA WAS INVOLVED
IN 110 OF THE 168 DRUG CASES IN THE SURVEY FOR WHICH

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN 12168 VICE 02168QUAF

QUANTITY INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. OF THESE MARIJUANA
CASES, 57.3 PERCENT INVOLVED 20 KILOS OR MORE, 76.4
PERCENT INVOLVED ONE KILO OR MORE, AND ONLY 0.9 PERCENT
LESS THAN 25 GRAMS (APPROXIMATELY ONE OUNCE). COCAINE
ACCOUNTED FOR 48 OF THE 168 DRUG CASES. OF THE COCAINE
CASES, 47.9 PERCENT INVOLVED ONE KILO OR MORE, 64.6
PERCENT INVOLVED 500 GRAMS OR MORE, AND 83.4 PERCENT
INVOLVED 100 GRAMS OR MORE.

5. COPIES OF PROFILE STUDY AND STATISTICAL TABLES ARE
BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (SCA/SCS) AND
CONSTITUENT POSTS.

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